

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM STATUS & AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-16 were pending in this application when last examined. Claims 1-12 have been examined on the merits, and stand rejected. Claims 13-16 were withdrawn from consideration as allegedly falling outside the proper class of statutory invention.

The present amendment amends claims 1-4 and 6-12, and cancels claims 13-16 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or division application on any canceled subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 7-9, 11, and 12 have been amended to recite the correct alternative chemical names for "methionine" and "diketone of methionine" as suggested by the Examiner at pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Support for the amendments can be found in the Specification and claims as originally filed.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, and 12 have been further amended to recite "for a time and under conditions effective to . . ." as suggested by the Examiner at page 3 of the Office Action. Claims 8, 11, and 12 have also been amended to recite proper method steps. Support for the amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed.

Claim 2 has been further amended to recite "alpha-keto carboxylic acids" as opposed to alpha-diketones as suggested by the Examiner at page 2 of the Office Action. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification, for example, at page 14, lines 24-31, and in original claims 1 and 2.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite proper Markush claim language. Support for this amendment can be found in the claim as originally filed.

Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite “wherein” as opposed to “characterized” as suggested by the Examiner. Examiner at page 4 of the Office Action. Support for the amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed.

Therefore, no new matter has been added by this amendment to the claims.

The Specification has been amended to include an Abstract of the Disclosure. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification, for example, at page 1, lines 5-16, and page 3, line 32 to page 4, line 23. Therefore, no new matter has been added by this amendment to the Specification.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. See Office Action, pages 2-4.

The claims have been amended along the lines suggested by the Examiner and as discussed above, thereby obviating this rejection. Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number below to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 29, 2004